

Rain gardens mimic the natural absorption and pollutant removal of a forest, meadow or prairie and can absorb runoff better than a standard lawn by capturing rainwater and then slowly releasing it into the soil. Studies show that streets with rain gardens can stop 80% or more pollutants running off of hard surfaces such as roads and driveways (EPA).

Public Rain Gardens in Benton County

Crystal Bridges Trailhead
NE A Street
Bentonville, AR

Horsebarn Trailhead Park
Horsebarn Road
Rogers, AR

St. Mary's Center for Nonprofits
1200 W Walnut
Rogers, AR

Siloam Springs Public Library
401 W University
Siloam Springs, AR



This brochure provided by
Benton County
Planning & Environmental
905 NW 8th Street
Bentonville, AR 72712
479.271.1083

For more information contact
Illinois River
Watershed Partnership
P.O. Box 8506
Fayetteville, AR 72703
479.215.6623
www.irwp.org

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using low impact
development to address
watershed concerns in our
community

What is a rain garden? A rain garden is a more attractive low impact method of stormwater detention. Much less intrusive than large detention facilities, rain gardens are designed with native plants to blend into the landscape.

Why rain gardens? A rain garden reduces the amount of rain water and pollutants entering streams, rivers and lakes.

How large is a typical home rain garden? Rain gardens of any size will have a positive impact but a typical home rain garden ranges from 100 to 300 square feet.

Do rain gardens breed mosquitoes? No, when properly designed a rain garden does not hold water like a pond. Rain gardens allow the rain to be used by native plants and soak into the ground, it does not stand on the surface for long periods of time.

Do rain gardens look wild and messy? Maybe, your rain garden can be as natural or manicured as you like! It is recommended that you use native plants that prefer the soils and temperatures in your area as well as attract native animal species.

Storm Water



Increased stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces* becomes a problem as cities grow. Stormwater runoff from developed areas increases flooding; carries pollutants from streets, parking lots and even lawns into local streams and lakes; and leads to costly municipal improvements in stormwater treatment structures. Collectively individual rain gardens produce substantial neighborhood and community environmental benefits to controlling stormwater runoff.

*Any surface that doesn't allow rain water to penetrate into the soil such as roofs, roads, concrete, sidewalks and most lawns because of shallow dense root systems.

Low Impact Development

Is an ecologically-based stormwater management approach to managing rainfall through a vegetated treatment network rather than the conventional method of conveyance through pipes, catchment basins, curbs and gutters.

Stormwater runoff from conventional catchments can be toxic because of hydrocarbon residues from lawn care chemicals, oil, gasoline, brake fluid, asphaltic products in roads and roofs. This can lead to stream impairment and loss of native species.

Low Impact Development can enhance landscape biodiversity by using a natural hydrological approach to managing stormwater runoff.

Learn more about LID by visiting <http://uacdc.uark.edu>